

January 13, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting the presence of urease in a gastrointestinal system comprising:
 - providing a sample of gastric material from a patient;
 - contacting said gastric material directly with a ~~first~~ dry finely powdered first composition located in a first area, said first ~~powdered~~ composition being urea, said urea converting to ammonia when contacted with urease;
 - coating said gastric material with said first composition, moisture in said gastric material causing said dry finely powdered first composition to stick to said gastric material;
 - removing at least a portion of said gastric material from said first area; and
 - contacting said gastric material with a second composition located in a second area, said second composition comprising at least one indicator, said indicator being configured to indicate the presence of ammonia thereby indicating the presence of urease in said gastric material.
2. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said urea has a mean particle size of less than 0.1 mm to increase efficiency.
3. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said first composition further comprises a dry, finely powdered anti-caking agent.
4. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said second composition comprises a gel.
5. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said second composition further comprises agar.
6. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said indicator is a pH indicator that changes color when the pH is increased.
7. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said urea has a mean particle size of less than about 0.05 mm.
8. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said first composition and said

second composition are positioned in the same container in a spaced apart relationship.

9. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said second composition further comprises a bactericide or a bacteristat.

10. (Previously amended) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said indicator is phenol red.

11. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said second composition further comprises a pH adjuster.

12. (Original) A method as defined in claim 2, wherein said second composition further comprises agar and a pH adjuster.

13.-17 (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting the presence of urease in a gastrointestinal system comprising the steps of:

providing a sample of gastric material from a patient;

contacting said gastric material directly with a composition comprising a dry, finely powdered urea and a dry, finely powdered, indicator, said urea ~~being capable of being converted~~ converting into ammonia when contacted with urease and said indicator being configured to indicate the presence of ammonia ~~thereby indicating the presence of urease in said gastric material~~

coating said gastric material with said dry, finely powered urea and said dry finely powered indicator, moisture in said gastric material causing said dry, finely powered urea and said dry finely powered indicator to stick to said sample and activate said indicator, thereby indicating the presence of urease in said gastric material.

19. (Original) A method as defined in claim 18, wherein said urea present within said composition has a mean particle size of less than about 0.1 mm to increase efficiency.

20. (Original) A method as defined in claim 18, wherein said urea present within said composition has a mean particle size of less than about 0.05 mm to increase efficiency.

21. (Original) A method as defined in claim 18, wherein said composition further comprises an dry, finely powdered anti-caking agent.

22. (Original) A method as defined in claim 18, wherein said indicator comprises a pH indicator that changes color when the pH is increased.